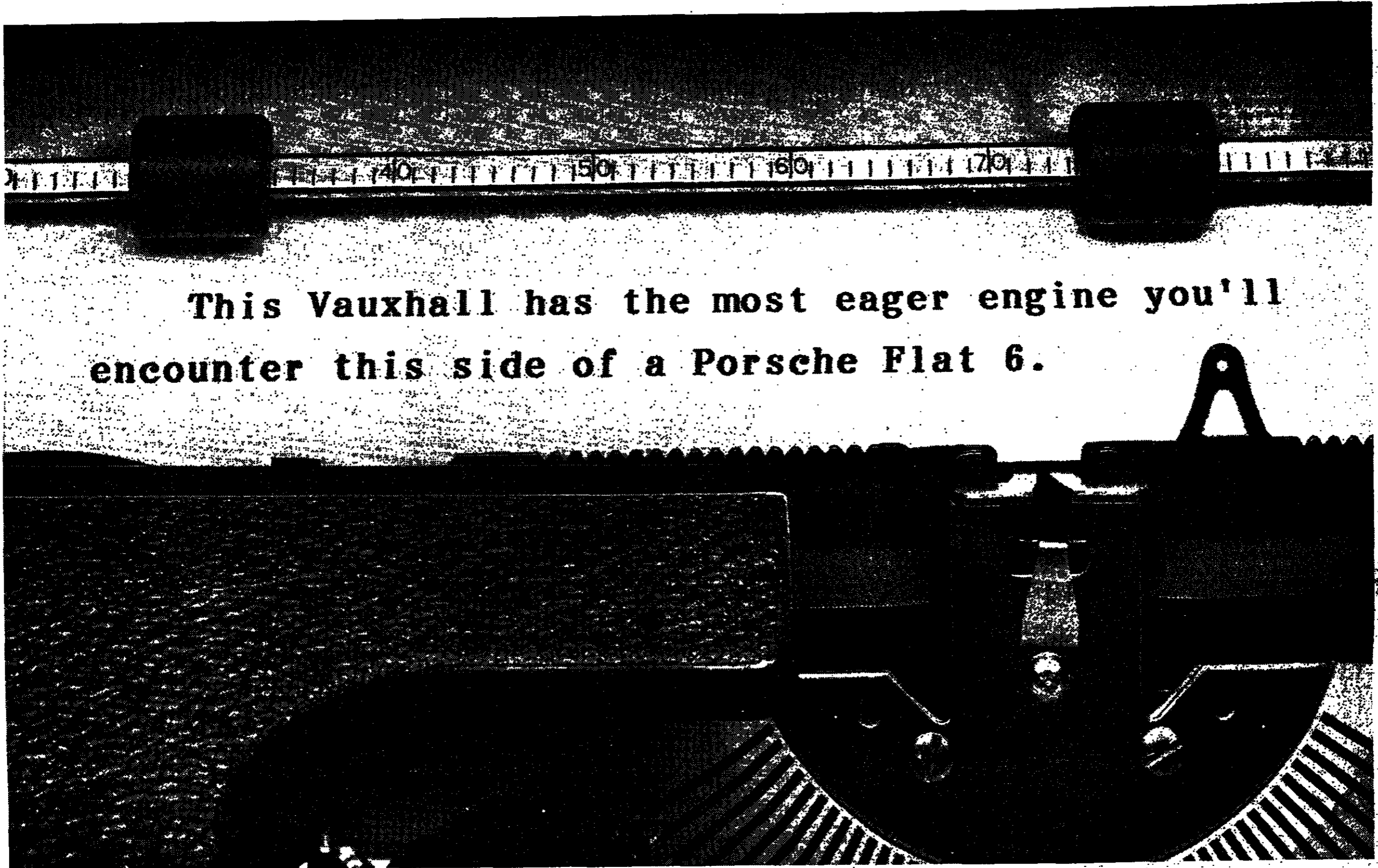


WE THOUGHT OUR 16 VALVE ENGINE WAS INCOMPARABLE. APPARENTLY NOT.



This Vauxhall has the most eager engine you'll encounter this side of a Porsche Flat 6.

Hmm. The quote above was found in the May 1988 issue of 'Car' magazine.

Reinforcing the belief, it seems, that Vauxhall can build a good engine. Then again, it's not just a good engine. It's our best.

You see, we gave our engineers a bit of a problem.

"Build an engine that is not only flexible but with high power. Make it quiet, fuel-efficient and low on exhaust emissions.

Finally, it has to be easy to maintain but durable, compact and low in weight." Some problem.

But as we expected, they delivered the goods.

In the shape of the new Vauxhall 2.0 litre 16 valve engine. It pushes out 150 bhp.

And, when fitted in the Astra GTE, powers it from 0-60 in 7.6 seconds, and up to 135 mph.

Its real beauty, however, is its immediate and

powerful response to a demand for acceleration, (i.e. put your foot down and it goes like lightning).

Much of this is thanks to the introduction of the Bosch M2.5 Motronic engine management system.

A most important function of which is its Sequential Fuel Injection.

A bit of technical flim-flam that means the exact amount of fuel goes to each cylinder exactly when it is needed. Result: Instant exhilaration.

Nevertheless, this is just a start. As we speak, our designers are developing far superior engines.

So keep your eyes peeled on the car mags.

One day you may see a cutting that compares a Porsche Flat Six to a Vauxhall engine.

VAUXHALL. ONCE DRIVEN, FOREVER SMITTEN.

VAUXHALL IS BACKED BY THE WORLDWIDE RESOURCES OF GENERAL MOTORS. ALL PERFORMANCE FIGURES MANUFACTURER'S DATA.

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Trippier agrees to public debate on council housing laws

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

The bitter political dispute over the transfer of council housing stock to new landlords will come to a head with a public debate between the junior housing minister and his Labour shadow.

Mr David Trippier, Under Secretary of State for the Environment, has taken up a challenge from Mr Clive Soley, the Opposition spokesman on housing, to discuss the new housing legislation in public.

They have been at loggerheads in an increasingly acrimonious and personal dispute about the voting methods used to determine whether council estates should transfer to new owners, and particularly over the provision that absentees are counted as votes in favour of a transfer.

Mrs Sally Oppenheim-Barnes, chairman of the National Consumer Council, is being approached to find out whether she will chair the debate.

Mr Trippier has written to Mr Soley saying he wants a debate to correct the misinformation and "erroneous statements" which he alleges the Labour spokesman has been making about tenants' choice provisions in the new

housing Act. The debate will come as Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for the Environment, wrestles with a decision on the vote held by tenants of Torbay council on its proposal for a voluntary transfer of its housing stock under the Housing Act 1985.

That Act had no provisions for a ballot, but the council used the model of the 1988 Act.

The difference is that 20 per cent or more of tenants who voted against transfer will not, as under the 1988 tenants' choice provisions, be able to retain their local authority landlord.

Mr Ridley is required to determine in the Torbay case whether a majority of those eligible to vote favoured a transfer.

Ministers have accused Labour spokesmen of "whipping up fear and hysteria" about the proposals.

Mr Soley has accused the Government of publishing misleading information in its Department of Environment leaflet on tenants' choice. The pamphlet stated that each tenant who was eligible to vote would have to vote yes, no or abstain.

Mr Soley claimed. But that was a lie, and a lie paid for by the taxpayer, because if one abstained one was counted as having voted yes.

The Government has fiercely denied the allegation, pointing out that the leaflet said tenants could not have their homes transferred over their heads. It had stated that tenants who voted yes or abstained would become tenants of the new landlord.

The dispute has also centred on Labour claims, furiously denied by the Government, that people who had died would be included in the votes as having voted in favour, and that those tenants who did not vote to transfer would have to pay the rent set by the new landlord.

During an angry Commons clash in November, Mr Trippier extracted from Mr Soley a promise that he would denounce misleading information given to tenants before a ballot. He has since been bombarding the Labour spokesman with leaflets containing allegedly inaccurate information about the powers and asking him to disown them.

Musicians fly to Armenia's aid

PETER TRIVNOR



Marianne Thorsen, aged 16, a violinist, and Thomas Watmough, aged 17, a clarinetist, will join nine other young musicians from the Parcell School of Music, Harrow on the Hill, north-west London, at Heathrow today en route for Moscow, where they will take part in a concert in aid of the Armenian Earthquake Disaster Fund. They will perform with

musicians from Norway, West Germany and other European countries at Moscow's Central Hall. Princess Margaret is to attend a Royal Opera House production on January 11 to raise money for the Armenian earthquake appeal. Members of the Bolshoi and Kirov ballets and Russian singers will take part.

Houseboat fire kills mother and girls

By David Cross

A young mother died trying to save her two daughters yesterday when fire swept through their houseboat.

Mrs Elaine Rowe, aged 20, was filling a bucket with water from the bathroom when she was overcome by smoke. The fire brigade said.

Her body and those of her daughters, Sarah, aged three, and Victoria, aged two, were found in the converted Second World War motor gunboat in Hoo Marina, near Rochester, Kent. All three died of smoke inhalation.

Mr William Rowe, aged 30, who was working as a security guard in London at the time of the fire, was being comforted by relatives last night.

Owners of neighbouring boats tried to put out the fire with extinguishers but the fumes were too dense. Astrid Arthurs, aged 14, said: "It was high tide and the boat was rocking from side to side. The extinguisher was useless."

Her mother, Mrs Janet Arthurs, aged 35, added: "By the time we realized what was happening the blaze was well under way. We wanted to get the kiddies out but there was no chance."

Another neighbour, Mr Alec Grant, aged 53, said: "The children were lovely. Mischievous but sweet. We all feel terrible."

TUC split on future strategy

Mergers are changing map of trade unionism

By Tim Jones
Employment Affairs Correspondent

The TUC general council, besieged by what it considers an increasing flood of anti-trade union legislation, is deeply divided over how the movement should develop to protect the interests of its members.

The debate over the future strategy and direction of the 81 unions affiliated to the TUC comes as union mergers and take-overs gather speed.

Increasingly, small unions are finding they cannot provide the range of services their members are demanding or compete on equal terms in the employment legislation field with multinational companies or public corporations. However, union leaders

are at odds about forming huge general unions or seeking "industrial union mergers" with affiliates.

Mr John Edmonds, chief architect of the "super block" strategy, believes that by 2000 there could be just four general unions, each with a membership of two million or more.

He believes that is the only way unions will be able to provide quality services and high-grade representation.

However, Mr Leslie Christie, general secretary of the National Union of Civil and Public Servants, believes such a move would severely weaken the influence of the TUC. "We would be left not with four unions, but with four trade union centres representing huge groups of workers with no real

identity of interest", he said. His union is considering instead a merger with the Civil and Public Services Association (CPSA) to create a 240,000-strong union.

The CPSA, the biggest Whitehall union, is also being courted by the GMB, which has just merged with the Association of Professional, Executive, Clerical and Computer Staff to become Britain's second-largest union. The union that once claimed that spot, the Amalgamated Engineering Union, is hoping to combine with the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunication and Plumbing Union.

Talks between Sogat, the largest print union, and the National Graphical Association may yet lead to a marriage, while the National Union of

Public Employees and the National and Local Government Officers' Association may also merge.

The Manufacturing, Science and Finance union and the Union of Construction, Allied Trades and Technicians are discussing links. The National Union of Seamen is balloting its members on whether to stay independent or merge with the National Union of Railwaymen and the Transport and General Workers' Union.

Even the the National Union of Mineworkers, which once made governments tremble, could cease to exist in 1989. Talks starting next month could lead to absorption in the massive maw of the Transport and General Workers' Union.

Election of union officials

Nupe first for secret ballot

By Roland Rudd, Employment Affairs Reporter

Leaders of the National Union of Public Employees (Nupe) will be the first appointed trade union officers to face election by secret postal ballot.

Mr Rodney Bickerstaffe, the union's general secretary, and Mr Tom Sawyer, deputy general secretary, will be the first to comply with the Employment Act 1988, which forces all appointed union officers to stand for election.

Mr Bickerstaffe, aged 43, who speaks for health service workers, and Mr Sawyer, aged 45, chairman of the Labour Party's home policy com-

mittee, were appointed in 1982. They are vociferous critics of the Government.

Miss Ina Love, the union's president, says in a confidential circular to all branches that elections "have been forced on us by an anti-trade union government, at a time when the union is facing critical battles to defend the jobs and interests of all Nupe members. The union has no alternative but to comply, despite the fact that our own system of appointments and accountability, built up over the hundred years of exis-

tence, has worked as well." Other union leaders have taken action to circumvent the Act, which comes into force in July. Mr Neil Milligan, aged 63, general secretary of Aslef, the rail drivers' union, has retired early so a successor can be elected by the union's branch block votes system. Its next general secretary will not have to face a secret ballot until 1994.

Mr Arthur Scargill, the National Union of Mineworkers president, called an election earlier this year to avoid the postal ballot requirement.

EYES AND EARS TO DEFEND AGAINST ALL THREATS IN THE AIR



The Hawk moth is far from defenceless. It can hear the approach of a bat long before the opposition's acoustic sensor becomes effective.

With its vibration receptors it can detect an approaching predator and respond with a throat display using its spectacular eye spots.

Chemical sensors on the antennae identify friends, odour signals.

Effective integrated systems of distance and communication.

Such interlocking system solutions, developed from comprehensive threat analysis, are the Plessey approach to defence in the air.

With video and data communications, navigation, identification, flight data, electronic warfare and weapon system electronics, and support from a large specialist software team, we are an established supplier in this technology.

Hence our prime contracting and collaborative roles in communication and navigation projects such as JTIDS, GPS and NIS, the NATO identification system.

In air defence, we have the technology to meet the needs of today's air forces.

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38 DAYS TO GO



THE RIGHT CHOICE

NOW, THE £80 DISH

Britain's most exciting countdown stands at 38 days as Sky Television announces exciting new programmes, fabulous new deals in the high street and important new sponsorship opportunities for advertisers

VIEWERS can tune into the Sky Television service for just £80 down in a fabulous deal being offered by DER and Radio Rentals, the high street television rental specialists.

It's the latest in a series of offers that confirms Sky Television's six channels as the best bargain in Britain.

Their New Year present to viewers is a satellite dish for just £80. After paying a nominal installation fee, viewers who already rent equipment will get the set-top converter for just £9.99 a month. Those not renting already will pay only £12.99.

Of course, it all plugs into your existing television set — there's no need to buy a new one.

It adds up to even more choice for Sky viewers. Dixons and Currys are already offering top-quality Amstrad dishes for outright sale at £199, or £249 with a convenient remote control unit.

The decision of Sky to use the same proven technology as your existing television means that in the months ahead, it will be even easier than expected for viewers to join in the fun of Sky Television's six channels.

And to make a good deal even better, viewers who invest in the equipment for Sky will be ready for even more choice in the future!

In addition to the six channels being provided by Sky, there will be at least THREE more English-language

The deals are getting keener as high street retailers gear up to offer satellite dishes for Sky TV

channels to choose from on our Astra satellite — 9 channels altogether.

And when a second ASTRA is launched, there will be even MORE channels to choose from. "Sky is bringing in a supermarket choice of programmes to replace the cornucopia offerings available up to now," said Andrew Neil, Executive Chairman of Sky Television.

The Sky selection of entertainment includes Europe's first and best satellite entertainment station, Sky

Channel. With soap operas, game shows and chat, Sky offers something for everyone in the family.

But there's much more to come.

Sky Movies, the first satellite film channel, will feature the best of Hollywood and British titles. Deals have already been signed with Twentieth Century Fox, Touchstone and Warner Brothers, and more great films will be announced soon.

For the sports fan in the family, Sky offers something really special: Eurosport, the all-action sport channel, with a feast of top-class competition.

Sky News will beam the top stories 24 hours a day, along with fascinating features and provocative interviews.

And later, there will be Sky Arts, the performance and visual arts station, providing the best in concerts, opera, drama and ballet.

But there's even more to come! From the spring, The Disney Channel will bring the Magic Kingdom to your living room with classic cartoons, films and made for television features.

The Disney Channel will be available on subscription, along with Sky Movies, for just £12 a month.

The hot competition in the high street guarantees that viewers who want to tune in to Sky will have the widest possible choice of equipment at the keenest possible prices.

Leading international brand names join Sky in sponsorship deals

TOP international companies are lining up to be part of the Sky Television entertainment revolution.

Ford, Coca-Cola and Nescafe are among the first major sponsors of programmes on the 24-hour general entertainment station, Sky Channel.

The Ford Ski Report will bring viewers the excitement of the 1989 World Alpine Skiing Championships.

From Vail, Colorado, presenters Ray Robinson and Katie Foster, both experienced skiers themselves, will be following the fortunes of the world's top skiers, especially for Sky.

The championships conclude with the slalom event when the explosive Italian, Alberto Tomba, will be trying to add to the two gold medals he won in 1988.

The Ford Ski Report will also go behind the scenes for interviews, resort reports and reviews of all that's new in the world of ski fashion and equipment.

As an added bonus, for the active enthusiast, Sky offers twice weekly five minute reports on the snow and weather

conditions at Europe's top ski resorts.

Nescafe has meanwhile signed up as sponsor of the UK Top 40 chart show. It will be presented by Capital Radio DJ Pat Sharp from the streets of major cities throughout Britain.



Sky sponsors

"Landing this is even more exciting than almost making the top 10 with my first single," said Sharp, 27, whose cover version of Let's All Chant reached the number 11 position in the charts this year.

Adding a new dimension to the entertainment on Sky, Coca-Cola will sponsor a unique European chart show. Available for the past three years to audiences throughout Europe, the Eurochart will for

the first time give viewers in Britain the chance to tune in to the top European sounds with their Sky satellite dish.

"These important sponsorship deals prove that Sky Television is offering advertisers entirely new types of opportunities to put their products before viewers," said Mike Whittington, Sky Television's director of sales.

"This is the first time that advertisers in the UK have had the chance to sponsor programmes in this way. We believe that sponsorship will play a big role in Sky, to allow viewers to receive top quality programmes, while giving advertisers a unique platform," he added.

The demand from major companies to join the Sky Television revolution is expected to grow even more in the months ahead. Sky's sales department is ready to assist advertisers to tailor a unique sponsorship package, but Whittington warns:

"We're not looking for any kind of sponsorship deal. We are looking only for those deals that will give viewers the best in entertainment."



Outrageous Derek Jameson trumps Wogan on Sky Channel

Jameson scoops top job on Sky

TOP COCKNEY Derek "Del Boy" Jameson is to become the new king of chat — exclusively on Sky Channel.

Jameson says his new show starting in February on Sky is the "most exciting thing that has ever happened to me."

And in a dig at the competition, he added: "This gives me what Wogan has always wanted — a late-night chat show, five times a week."

Jameson Tonight will be outrageous, but most of all entertaining, promised the former Fleet Street editor turned media star.

"Working for a new TV service with six channels is tremendously exciting. It's the biggest development in television for 30 years."

Jameson, 59, will go out on Sky each night at 10.30pm and his action-packed show will feature celebrity interviews, live music and controversy.

"Being on late at night means I can be more outspoken than other chat show hosts," Jameson said. "Wogan's show is predictable. I will go where others fear to tread."

Satellite expert takes a knife to MAC

TOP satellite expert Steve Birkill has warned consumers to be careful when they evaluate the claims being made for the various satellite systems.

He says the PAL television system currently in use — and chosen by Sky for all its programmes — is just fine for satellite reception.

Claims being made by a rival satellite group which has selected a new and complicated transmission system called MAC should not be believed, he suggests.

MAC's backers have made a series of claims about their system that are "not only misleading, they're simply not true," Birkill says.

Sky Television has rejected MAC. We feel it adds expense and complexity to television without offering benefits to viewers. We believe viewers will not want to throw away their television sets and start again.

Birkill, who is credited with building the FIRST home satellite television system in Britain, has been taking a hard look at the claims being made for MAC, and agrees.

In an article in Satellite A-Z, an authoritative trade publication, he says:

Forget better pictures and sound from MAC. The MAC transmissions planned by some others will have to be reconverted back to the standard PAL colour system before they can be viewed on most television receivers.

Forget promises that MAC will offer wide-screen TV. It will be years before such

sets are available, and when they are, MAC could itself be obsolete.

Forget taping programmes in MAC. Your home VCR will work only in PAL.

Forget the claims that only MAC can offer stereo sound and other refinements. PAL is capable of providing stereo, too, he says.

Birkill says Sky "made a wise move in choosing conventional technology, PAL, to generate an inexpensive direct-to-home

satellite TV mass consumer market in 1989" and the inexpensive PAL technology will continue as Europe's main broadcasting system for years and years.

Birkill notes, too, that those planning to introduce MAC television will require viewers to buy a special serial that will not be able to receive Sky programmes. But those who buy dishes for Sky will be able to upgrade them later, if MAC ever does take off.



Amstrad dishes come off the production line

SKY LINES

Welcome aboard!

VIEWERS who buy the dish to tune into the six wonderful channels offered by Sky Television will get an extra bonus — three more English-language channels. W H Smith plans to take two channels on Sky's Astra satellite; publisher Robert Maxwell is taking a third, for a music television channel. We welcome these new channels onto Astra. We believe that the competition among different programmers means even more value for viewers. So when you go out to choose a dish, make sure you get the one that will bring you the most — the dish for Sky.

Promoting Sky A TOP London advertising agency has been named to

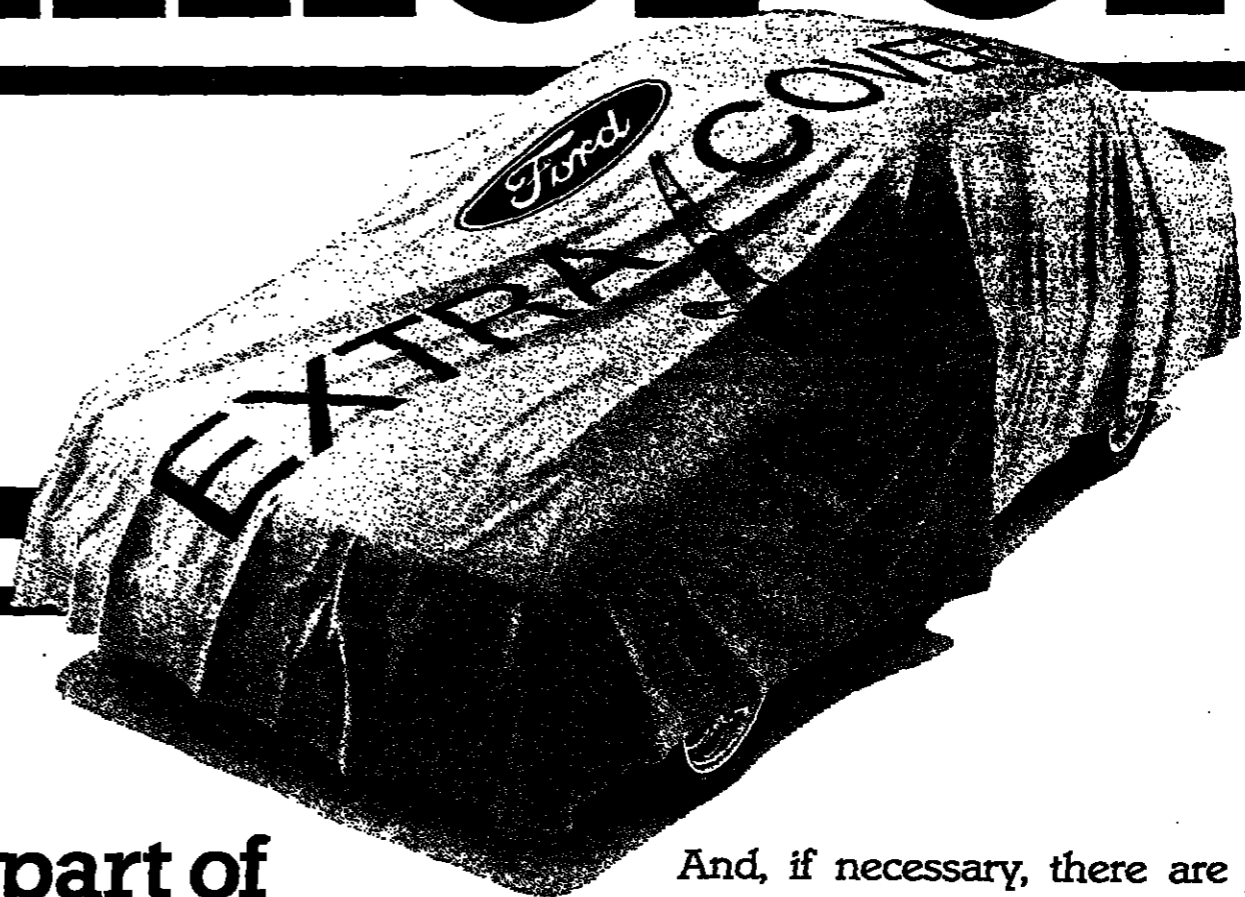
handle the massive media campaign planned for the launch of Sky. Lowe Howard-Spink is planning an exciting burst of advertisements to tell the public about the benefits of Sky Television. Watch your neighbourhood poster sites!

Choice dish GRUNDIG, the respected German electronics company, predicts that it will sell more than 100,000 satellite receivers and dishes in 1989, worth more than £40m. The Grundig satellite system will be available at DER, Multi-Broadcast and Focus outlets for rental and at Rumbelows for outright purchase. Grundig claims that its system is technically outstanding; it includes a high-tech, stylish dish and a set-top tuner capable of receiving 49 separate channels — so it's ready for the new satellite services of the future.

Vertical text on the left margin containing various small snippets and fragments of text.

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The cover that protects you against all manner of bills.



Suppose you buy a new Ford car or, maybe a van or a Transit.

As you'd expect it would come with Ford's comprehensive Assurance.

That should give you complete peace of mind for a year but, if you like, you could buy a cover that goes a whole lot further.

All you have to do is ask your dealer for one of Ford's optional warranties.

Extra Cover or Extra Cover Plus.

You can order them for two or three

It's all part of the service behind every Ford.

year periods from the date your vehicle is registered, with various mileage limits to suit your needs.

And they'll protect you from charges for labour and materials for a huge range of repairs.

You'll also be covered against towing charges to the nearest Ford dealer.

And, if necessary, there are generous allowances for car hire and hotel accommodation.

Beyond that Extra Cover Plus also gives you most of the benefits of associate membership of the RAC, including the round the clock RAC Rescue, Recovery and 'At Home' services.

So when you buy your new Ford, don't forget to ask for Extra Cover. It costs very little for something that can save you so much.

The Extra Cover Optional Warranty. 

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SPECTRUM

Lawyer with ink on his hands

THE TIMES PROFILE

LOUIS BLOM-COOPER

Louis Blom-Cooper, QC, has paid the penalty of being too clever and too catholic in his passions. Had he been a little less bright, and a little more single-minded in his pursuit of legal success, he would undoubtedly have been at least a judge of the Court of Appeal by now, if not a Law Lord. Instead, he has taken on the near-impossible task of rescuing the Press Council from terminal disrespect.

legal establishment. The respect which his ability attracted was tinged with that hint of suspicion which accompanies the nonconformist who does not always perform according to the unwritten rules. He was not a rebel, but he was different. Nevertheless, when he retired from the Bar earlier this month after 35 years, his teeming farewell party was attended by almost all the Law Lords and a good sprinkling of the best of the rest of the higher judiciary. They came out of affection, not to make sure he was really going.



Louis Blom Cooper: if he cannot restore confidence in the Press Council, its days are surely numbered

the A6 murder, the Law Lords, capital punishment (against), and law as literature. Under his chairmanship, the inquiries into the deaths of battered children Jasmine Beckford and Kimberley Carlile were praised for their robust yet compassionate good sense, and some of his conclusions have found their way into the Children Bill now passing through Parliament.

travelled to the Turks and Caicos Islands to head an independent inquiry into corruption in high places. He has sat on innumerable committees and is currently chairman of the Independent Committee for the Supervision of Standards of Telephone Information Services, and of the Mental Health Act Commission.

such an uninteresting and unproductive activity. He does, though, manage to lead a gregariously social and family life in Islington, with most weekends and holidays in Montgomery, Wales, with his second wife, Jane, and their three children (he has another three, grown up, by his first wife).

BIOGRAPHY

1928: Born March 27 in Rotterdam. 1944-47: Army service. Late 1940s: Read law at King's College, London. 1952: Bachelor of Laws (London). Called to the Bar, Middle Temple, Amsterdam. 1954: Doctorate in Jurisprudence, The Guardian. 1957: Legal affairs correspondent of The Guardian. 1966-78: Member of Home Secretary's Advisory Council on the Penal System. 1970: Became Queen's Council. 1970-73: Chairman of the local radio council for BBC Radio London. 1973-84: Became chairman of Howard League for Penal Reform. 1984: Became Vice-President of Howard League. 1985: Chairman of inquiry into the death of Jasmine Beckford. 1987: Chairman of inquiry into the death of Kimberley Carlile. May 1988: Named as successor to Sir Salim Gowen as chairman of Press Council. Retired from the Bar in December.

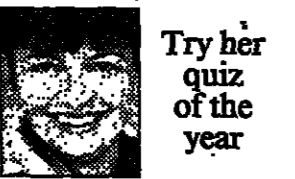
legal correspondent and remained on the newspaper's board of trustees until his new job required him to resign. For 25 years he has been Justinian, the Financial Times' influential and widely read legal columnist. His identity, until recently, had been kept secret and most readers had assumed that the non de plume masked a team of writers. In fact, apart from occasional substitutes when absent, it has been all his own work.

repercussions on the work of the Council. Blom-Cooper is more relaxed about the privacy Bill. He believes that "complaints of Press intrusion into private lives could be handled by the legal process and Press Council in harness". But even that presupposes a Press Council with rather more clout than the present version.

Marcel Berlins

The author is a former Legal Affairs Correspondent of The Times.

artfile



Sarah Jane Checkland

Are you in the picture?

1988 has been a year of excitement, records and controversy in the world of art. Put your memory to the test



Memory joggers: saved for the nation (left); family silver sale (right); unwanted ruby (below left); and star buyer (below right)



ANSWERS: The answers to today's arts quiz will be published in The Times tomorrow

- 1 Can you name two types of... 2 Which group of 20th-century British painters... 3 Which great silver... 4 Which important "heritage" items... 5 Which cathedral has caused a storm of protest... 6 Yorkshireman Bob Atkins... 7 Which two collections... 8 Can you name the three major "showbiz" collections... 9 Which nobleman left Nato to become chairman of Christie's? 10 From which gallery were 28 paintings stolen in February and are so far not recovered? 11 Which auctioneering company postponed flotation and why? When did the

- 12 Which painting fetched a record of £485,000 at Sotheby's in March despite sustaining a big tear just before the sale? 13 Can you name the artist who painted the Dutch 17th-century banquet still life which fetched \$11.3 million (£8.4 million) in January? 14 Which Old Master painter refuses to improve his record of around £250,000, despite repeated offerings of his works at auction? 15 Which category of painting, pioneered by Sotheby's, suffered a flop at its second sale, with almost 50 per cent unsold? 16 Can you name any three of five Scandinavian artists who have been performing magnificently in the market? 17 Who is the most expensive living artist and what is his current record? 18 Which paintings, consigned by Robert and Johnny Ferrer-Hesketh for sale at Christie's, were saved for the nation by the Museums and Galleries Commission? 19 From which Florentine church did the bust of Christ by Giovanni Battista Caccini, which fetched the astonishing record of £25,000 at Sotheby's, come? 20 Which London dealer intervened in the sale at Phillips of three drinking vessels looted from the Netherlands? 21 Which painting did the National Gallery buy as an original, only to be told by the Dortmund Museum that it was they who had the original? How much did the National Gallery pay for it? 22 Which important 20th-century British painter's profile was bought by the Tate? 23 What aspect of its collection did the Getty Museum sell? Why and for how much? 24 What was the name of the "Aussie Earl" who sold the family silver through the Prudential? 25 In October the American multi-millionaire John Harrington claimed he had discovered a painting by a great Venetian artist. Name the painter. 26 Can you name the biggest auction flop during the year, in terms of physical scale? 27 Which Institute of higher education is thinking of selling its great collection of Victorian paintings? 28 Which great ruby failed to sell at Sotheby's New York in October? 29 Last month 200 paintings purportedly by a leading Russian artist were branded as fakes. Can you name him? 30 Who finally bought the two paintings attributed to George Stubbs which were the subject of a law case? 31 What is the name of Spain's answer to Tom Keating who watched as 216 of his works sold at Bonhams in November? 32 Which trade union leader paid £17 last month for a plate commemorating his namesake? Who is his namesake? 33 What did the diocese of Peterborough sell to raise funds? 34 What was it that actress Barbara Streisand paid a record price of £196,000 for this month? 35 Which category of work by Picasso was a flop at auction in October? 36 What is the world record for a single British stamp? Can you name the stamp?

Sanderson JANUARY SALE. TUESDAY 3RD JANUARY 9.30AM UNTIL SATURDAY 28TH JANUARY 5.30PM. SAVE UP TO 50% ON SANDERSON FABRICS, BEDLINES AND WALL PAPERS. (DISCONTINUED DESIGNS, SLIGHT SECONDS). SAVE UP TO 50% ON UPHOLSTERY AND CABINET FURNITURE. (EX SHOWROOM MODELS). UPTO 15% DISCOUNT ON SELECTED UPHOLSTERY AND FURNITURE ITEMS ORDERED DURING THE SALE PERIOD. SPECIAL PROMOTION ON SOFA-BEDS. PLUS LARGE REDUCTIONS ON ACCESSORIES, LIGHTING, AND PREVIOUS ROOMSET ITEMS. Sanderson, 52 Berners Street, London W1.

If conservationists want to stop a farmer destroying a section of medieval hedge, one of the oldest components in the British landscape, they can, at present, appeal to nothing higher than the man's better nature. There is not a word in the various layers of nature legislation that says anything about protecting one of the most distinctive and evocative features of rural Britain.

Halting the bulldozers. Next year could see European laws to protect the landscape from developers. British hedge could lie in the designation of certain old examples containing the requisite number of indicator species.

initiative. It was largely drafted by a senior EEC official and former British MEP, Stanley Johnson, and endorsed by the outgoing Environment Commissioner and former British MP, Stanley Clinton Davis. The EEC's one previous excursion into nature protection was the Birds Directive, ratified by the UK in 1979, which called on member states to designate areas of European-wide importance for birds and to safeguard certain species.

ands
MAGNIFY

HEALTH

The body politic

JULIAN HERBERT

David Mellor has resolved to get fitter in 1989. Victoria McKee checked up

Bacon and eggs, Christmas cake with home-made marzipan icing, and the best Belgian chocolates: these are the admitted weaknesses of the Minister of State at the Department of Health. David Mellor is an unrepentant worshipping at what he flippantly calls "the temples of gastronomy" and rarely graces the family table in Putney.

He smokes the occasional cigarette, "only after dinner, to be sociable", which he rationalises as "probably no worse than walking down Oxford Street and breathing deeply in the rush hour" and tries to limit himself to half a bottle of wine a day, or its equivalent.

As for exercise, well, like most people, he says, he does not do as much as he would like. In fact, he does none at all, except for taking Sunday afternoon strolls with his children, Anthony, aged eight, and Frederick, four. And he observes that "as parents we always start off with great ambitions that our kids are going to be crunching on carrots and eating nut outlets. But they end up with the same rubbish as everyone else's."

Mellor would probably be the first to acknowledge an affinity with the central character in the new Health Education Authority heart disease commercial - slumping in front of the television, cigarette in one hand, drink in another, stuffing his face with festive leftovers - than with the absent, abstemious, Edwina Currie (although he did start opting for apples from the bowl she kept on her desk, in lieu of his customary Mars Bars, and is "jolly sad" about her going, because "she did so much for prevention").

That said, Mellor will be starting a new fitness regimen in a

Currie-like blaze of publicity: at 7.45am next Tuesday on TV-am. Lizzie Webb, the breakfast television station's exercise expert, who is fronting its month-long national fitness campaign, has cajoled him into appearing live with her on screen to do the "Daily Dozen" exercises she has devised for him to do in his office.

Mellor stresses that he is not setting himself up as a role model. "I think politicians generally are not very good role models and I have not yet reached the stage of pomposity where I would want anyone to regard me in that light." Still, he has become painfully conscious that his 40th birthday is fast approaching with his soft life reflected harshly in his softening centre. "I don't carry a lot of weight anywhere other than a little bit on the stomach, but I'm getting quite irritated about that.

"I watch my weight - I have a seven-pound limit. I like to keep between 12 and 12 and a half stone, which, for my height, six foot, is about right. But I'm very conscious that I went into Christmas this year towards the upper end of that and that I've probably gained a pound or two over the holiday.

"My 40th birthday is on March 12, and I'm determined to turn the corner without having to think that, if I was forced to run somewhere, I'd have a coronary before turning the corner."

He has regular check-ups and is grateful to have avoided any serious illness with the exception of a slipped disc. Fortunately it slipped back into place but left a

drive of vanity in a man about to turn 40, and Mellor believes that publicly stating his aim might provide the impetus which was previously lacking.

He points out, somewhat reproachfully, that he is not quite beyond salvation. He does walk a fair bit, partly because he has never learnt to drive, and usually starts his day with Greek sheep's yoghurt and honey and freshly squeezed orange juice, rather than the fry-up he craves.

"But if you have a fried breakfast every now and then, the hell with it! Doing the drug brief at the Home Office I came strongly to believe in the theory of the addictive personality and I flatter myself that I'm not one. I also flatter myself that I could be a hell of a lot worse if I didn't exercise some discipline already."

To learn his "Daily Dozen" exercises, Mellor gamely pushed back the Regency-striped sofa in his office, removed his jacket and lay on the floor beside his leather-topped, mahogany desk, admiring the view of his ornately succeeded ceiling. In turn, he asked Lizzie Webb to produce a video of the exercises for him to play on his office television. "I need to feel compelled to do them each day, and I need to know that I'm doing them correctly," he says.

Unfortunately, his first, somewhat over-vigorous, session left him too worried about the resulting twinges in his back to follow the programme over the holidays as he intended. But he is undeterred in his determination to offer a heartening example to millions of beary-eyed penitents on the morning after the morning after New Year's Day: confident, at least, that his boss will be snoring away at such an early hour.



Bend and stretch: David Mellor practising in his office for his fitness drive. Left, he gets a novel view of the ceiling and, above, he tentatively reaches for the sky under the eye of TV-am's Lizzie Webb, before moving on to some leg and waist exercises

B

An infection on the wing

The importance of bird-borne infections has been highlighted recently by the serious attack of pneumonia which has kept the Labour MP Harriet Harman away from the Commons for some weeks. It has been due to psittacosis, parrot fever, which is traditionally thought to be caught from parrots and budgerigars but can also be spread by other birds, including canaries, pigeons and even the backyard hen. Harman keeps no birds, so it is just possible that she has acquired it by direct human droplet infection, the badly directed cough or sneeze, which occasionally occurs; however this is thought to be such a rare method of transmission that there will be no need for her fellow members to shun her in the lobby. As with many infectious, ranging from the common cold to legionnaires disease, it starts after a two to three week incubation period with general malaise - doctors' jargon for flu-like symptoms. If left unchecked it soon progresses to pneumonia. Once the diagnosis is established the treatment is straightforward, provided that the correct antibiotic is given in an appropriate dose (at least double the standard dose for not less than 14 days), as psittacosis is due to one of the chlamydia group of organisms where

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttford



Sick as a parrot: Harriet Harman, MP antibiotic resistance is not a problem. Untreated pneumonia psittacosis can have up to a 30 per cent mortality. Psittacosis is not the only disease which may threaten the seafarer who returns with a parrot on his shoulder, or

even the cage bird fancier with a few budgies in his back yard. A Dutch doctor, Dr Peter Holst, has shown that bird keepers have an increased chance of developing cancer of the lung irrespective of other risk factors. The research he has done demonstrates that the bird lovers are twice as likely to develop cancer of the lung as people in an otherwise similarly matched control group. Most of his patients (and therefore most of the controls) were smokers, so it is possible that the dust from feathers and from dried droppings may not only act as an allergen, but also adversely affect local levels of immunity within the lung, thereby acting as a co-factor in the production of the cancer. Being both a smoker and a bird-keeper is probably more dangerous than just being a smoker.

Although cancer of the lung occurs more commonly in those countries where bird-keeping is popular, such as the Netherlands, Britain or Belgium, British statisticians have criticized Dr Holst's work for being carried out with too small numbers and for failing to make adequate allowances for class differences (which affect the incidence of cancer) between bird fanciers and the rest of the population.

Mother's milk

Although this week's new mothers may have exchanged the lowly cot for a bed in a highly sophisticated ward, they still have to contend with the same physical and mental problems which have accompanied childbirth down the ages and must therefore have afflicted Mary nearly 2,000 years ago. Careful ante-natal care, improved monitoring equipment, higher standards of obstetrics and pharmaceutical advances have ensured that pregnancy, delivery and the post-natal period have become progressively safer for mother and child; even so, the first week after the birth is a time of close medical supervision and inevitably frequent recourse to the drugs cupboard.

Dr Peter Rubin, writing in *Medicine International*, has reviewed the effects of drugs taken by the breast-feeding mother on her baby. Lactating mothers can be reassured; although all drugs pass to a greater or lesser extent into the milk, the degree depending on how fat-soluble the compound is, the dilution of the drug which occurs as it spreads throughout the maternal body, coupled with the fact that the baby only takes very small amounts of milk at any one feed, means that the dose he or she receives is usually unimportant.

Mothers who may need antibiotics for infection can happily have penicillins, ery-

thromycin or cephalosporins but should avoid tetracyclines, chloramphenicol or sulphonamides. If agitated they are allowed chlorpromazine but should renounce the oft-prescribed and much loved Valium, Librium and the other benzodiazepines, including those used as sleeping pills, which can cause weight loss and severe lethargy in the baby; likewise phenobarbitone will induce extreme sleepiness. The depressed new mother can safely take the tricyclic antidepressants such as Tryptazolol; but, even if she has a manic depressive personality, she must avoid lithium, which could cause fatal cardiovascular collapse in her breast-fed baby. Mild pain can be dealt with by using paracetamol, but the night sister's old command of "give her a couple of aspirin" must now be abandoned for fear of causing Reye's syndrome in the child.

While recovering from her delivery, and while adjusting to maternity, the breast-feeding mother can therefore be treated without fear of harming her child for pain, infection, agitation and depression, the four most common complications of the first few weeks of post-natal life. If she decides that she does not want to breast-feed, the milk can now be dried up by using bromocriptine and without the use of heavy doses of stilboestrol, which in the past increased the chance of developing a clot in the lung.

When she has recovered, and is inclined to remember that she is a wife as well as a

mother, she can now take the low oestrogen and progestosterone pill with safety for herself and without ill-effect to the child. The higher dose pill should be avoided.

Smart-sighted

The portrait of Humphrey Brooke which illustrated the obituary in *The Times* (December 26) emphasized both his spectacles and the obvious intensity of his intelligence. Brooke, a frequent correspondent to *Medical Briefing* on the manic depressive psychosis, took a first at Oxford, and later became secretary to the Royal Academy. Is it chance that so many intelligent people are short-sighted (myopic) or is there a connection? Sociologists and physiologists argue as to whether short-sighted children become intelligent adults because, as they are less able at physical pursuits, they read more and become better educated; or whether the short-sight is an indirect result of the intelligence, possibly because the intelligent child is naturally attracted to books and spends an excessive amount of time reading fine print, thereby altering the shape of the eyeball and inducing myopia.

A huge study comparing the IQ and the educational attainments of nearly 6,000 short-sighted Danish army recruits with 10,000 who were normally sighted has recently been published in *The Lancet* and confirms the relationship

between IQ and short sight. It has also shown an equally close association between educational attainment and short sight. Not for nothing is the school swot always portrayed by Frank Richards wearing spectacles.

The study, by doctors from Copenhagen University, also demonstrated that the degree of short sight, once it has become well established (up to -2 dioptres), ceases to bear an exact relationship to IQ or educational level.

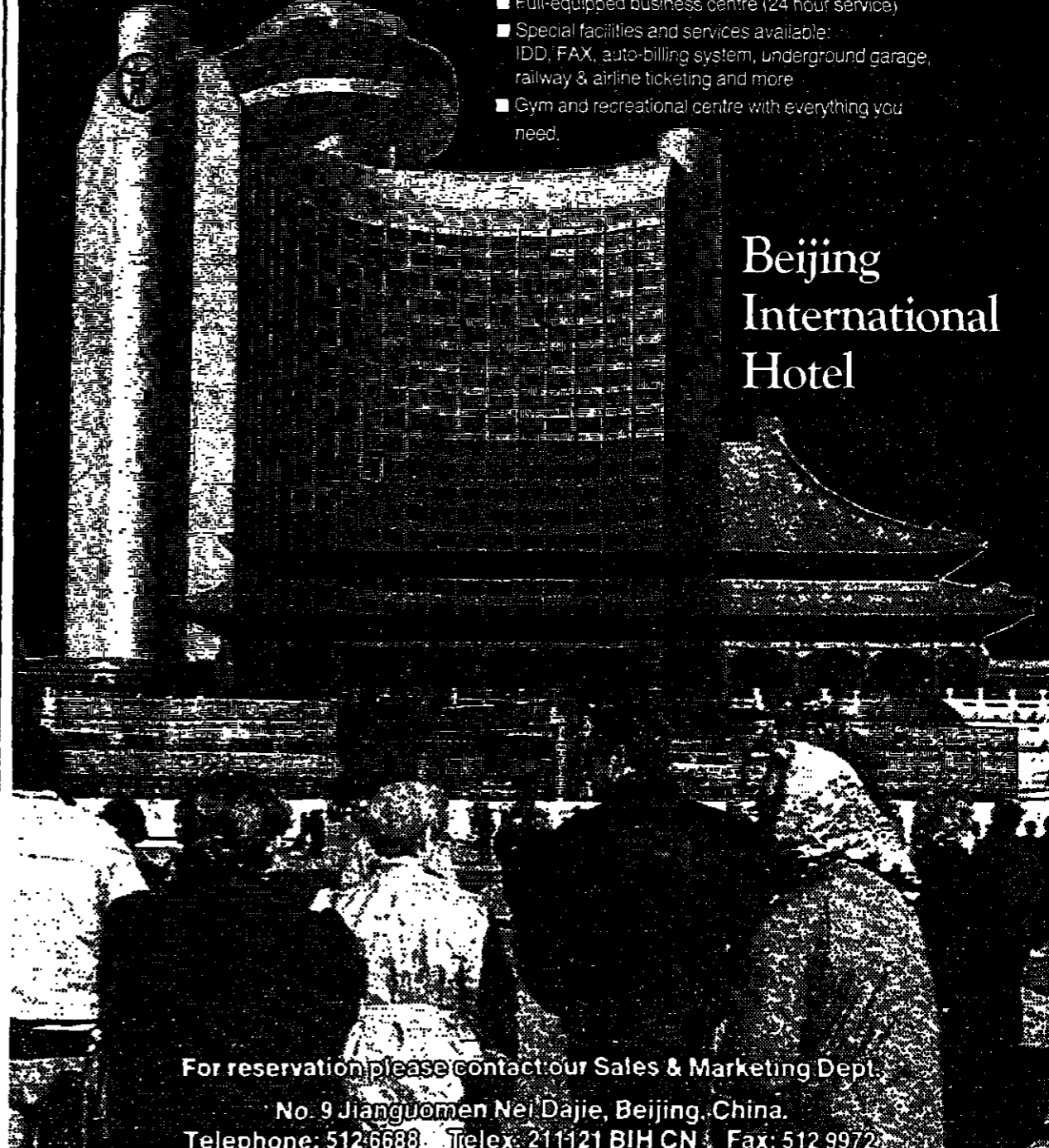
The authors argue that if reading is the only means of provoking myopia, there should be a closer relationship between educational attainment and short sight than between short sight and intelligence, whereas their research does in fact show that both are equally influenced by myopia. They suggest that the intelligent child has a greater natural curiosity in early infancy and expresses it by examining anything which is close to the eye with far greater enthusiasm and persistence than the less bright child exhibits. A bright baby's interest in the plastic bunnies stretched across the pram may therefore be as important in inducing myopia as the later pleasure in text books.

Parents should not try to inhibit their children's intellectual enthusiasm and hazard their later development in the hope that it will spare their eyesight, for heredity probably plays an overwhelming part in myopia, and may entirely account for its degree of severity beyond the -2 diopter stage.

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COURT AND SOCIAL COURT CIRCULAR

SANDRINGHAM Lady Abel Smith has succeeded Lady Susan Hussey as Lady in Waiting to The Queen.

Birthdays today

June Marchioness of Aberdeen and Temair, 75; Sir Richard Beaumont, diplomat, 76; Lord Beaverbrook, 77; Mr John Connell, former president, Distillers Company, 64;

Anniversaries

Births: Andrew Johnson, 17th President of the USA 1865-69, 1808, William Ewart Gladstone, prime minister 1868-74, 1880-85, 1886, 1892-94, 1809; Pablo Casals, cellist, 1876.

Bellamy criticizes 'tax' for Lakeland

Dr David Bellamy the botanist has criticized plans to impose a 'tax' on visitors to the Lake District.

SCIENCE REPORT

The cold dark dinosaurs of the Pole

News that there was thriving animal and plant life in the cold and dark Polar regions millions of years ago is at odds with the theory that a meteorite impact was responsible for the extinction of the dinosaurs.

Hungarian chess prodigy prepares to do battle



Judit Polgar, the 12-year-old Hungarian whose performance has shaken the chess world this year, walks on the sands at Hastings with her mother, Klara, before taking part as a last-minute entry in the Foreign and Colonial Chess Tournament at Hastings.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr M.S. Cappell and Miss C.F. Hall The engagement is announced between Mark, only son of Mr M.D. Cappell, of San Diego, California, and Mrs C. Cappell, of Matawan, New Jersey, and Carolyn, only daughter of Mr and Mrs R.C.M. Hall, of Stonegate, Leicester.

Archaeology

Excavations in Canterbury over the next year will lay bare almost the entire plan of a priory founded nine centuries ago. Founded in AD1084 by Lanfranc, the first Norman Archbishop of Canterbury, the priory held the relics of St Mildred and St Edburg, and was the home of Thomas à Becket in life and the site of a chapel dedicated to him after his martyrdom.

Lanfranc's priory is to be uncovered

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University news

SERC to the Department of Communication and Neuroscience for work by Professor D.H. Fowler on Early symbolic descriptions of spatial and chromatic images in human and machine vision.

Archaeology

The early stages of the excavation have uncovered more than seventy burials from St John's Hospital, and substantial parts of the church and chapter house. The wall footings and floors are well preserved, and Mr Bennett expects this to be among the more spectacular of the Trust's excavations.

University news

Department of Chemistry for work by Professor C.R.A. Catlow on Computer simulation of minerals and their behaviour.

OBITUARIES

RT REV RICHARD HANSON Learned theologian who had pastoral flair

Born in Dublin, and brought up in the best traditions of Anglo-Irish culture, he was the twin son of a distinguished civil servant and his mother was a friend of George Bernard Shaw.

HAL ASHBY Witty director who made Harold and Maude

Hal Ashby, the American film editor and director, died on December 27 at the age of 59. He had been suffering from cancer.



DUKE OF NEWCASTLE Collector of old and new insect species

The 10th Duke of Newcastle, who died on December 25 at the age of 63, was one of the most distinguished of modern British entomologists.

KATHLEEN MARY LINES High standards in children's books

Kathleen Mary Lines, who died in Winchester on December 24 aged 86, devoted her life to the belief that only the best books are good enough for children and her influence in raising the standards of these, both in editing and publishing, was incalculable.

EITHNE DUNNE

Eithne Dunne, the Irish actress, who has died aged 71, was highly regarded in many major parts, even those against her temperament, such as Nina in The Seagull which she played, among much else, with Michael MacLiammoir's Gate Theatre Company in its 1956 tour to Paris, Egypt and Malta.

Gas and nuclear power the fuels of the future says report

Oil sails into troubled waters

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

Oil will lose its dominant role in the British energy market...

energy. "Two of the most dramatic expectations are a considerable increase in the industrial sales of electricity to County NatWest WoodMac...

oil to suffer a considerable erosion of its remaining share of the energy market...

that the privatization of the power industry could eventually lead to competition in supplies to the area distribution boards.

The report adds that even coal could take a share of the market already held by oil.

City banks drop £1bn Soviet credit plan

Plans for a £1 billion credit package assembled by City banks to help fund Soviet economic reform have been dropped...



Down by the riverside: Michael Hoffman, who is to be Thames Water's first chief executive, at Kew Bridge yesterday

Bond man to run Thames Water

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

Mr Michael Hoffman, who has been chief executive of Mr Alan Bond's Airship Industries, takes over the executive reins at Thames Water...

entertained in finding the most efficient way to supply water, particularly in cleaning it.

is straightaway an international brand. He will be faced with the problem that water authorities typically show a growth of only 1 per cent compound a year.

There could also be growth through acquisition, he added. That could mean taking over other water authorities, in Britain or abroad, and acquisitions in linked activities such as construction.

While some banks said the decision to drop the package deal had come in response to approaches from the Soviet side, others said there had always been a considerable amount of resistance from the big banks to being "packaged".

Pavilion Leisure buys hotel in £9.1m deal

By Michael Tate

Share dealings in Pavilion Leisure, the Glasgow theatre proprietor, were suspended at 11.2p yesterday as the company unveiled the £9.1 million acquisition of Hawkstone Park Hotel, Shropshire in a move that sees Mr Nadir Lalani of Europa Hotels move in as deputy chairman.

ion shares at 135p each and 3.17 million convertible preference shares at £1 each, together with £850,000 cash for a property owned by Farpeak.

Fokker awaits Indonesian deal decision (Reuters) - Fokker, the Dutch aircraft manufacturer, said it could win a big order from Garuda Indonesia Airways for its Rolls-Royce powered Fokker 100 aircraft, provided the Indonesian government approves the contract.

Japan, long criticized for its limp controls on insider trading and beset by a securities scandal, intends to tighten its grip on stock market dealings.

The share profiteering scandal that is unravelling around Recruit Cosmos, an ambitious Japanese property company, has angered many Japanese - who are shocked at how easy it is to make money on Tokyo stocks if you are well positioned - and underlined the fears of many foreigners about Japan's regulatory regime.

Although Japanese MPs and businessmen are deemed to have behaved unethically in buying cheap stock in Recruit and Cosmos, they did not act illegally.

Other data that must be revealed includes mergers or management changes that would affect sales or total assets by more than 10 per cent and new products or technology estimated to affect sales by more than 10 per cent over three business years.

The draft also says companies must disclose information on changes in capital, bankruptcies, delisting, dissolution and share buybacks to prevent takeovers.

Japanese to tighten disclosure rules in crackdown on insiders

From Joe Joseph, Tokyo

The share profiteering scandal that is unravelling around Recruit Cosmos, an ambitious Japanese property company, has angered many Japanese - who are shocked at how easy it is to make money on Tokyo stocks if you are well positioned - and underlined the fears of many foreigners about Japan's regulatory regime.

Under the Finance Ministry draft, any factor that would affect a company's profits by more than 30 per cent and raise or lower its net assets by

more than 5 per cent would have to be disclosed. Company executives and others with access to the privileged information would be prohibited from trading shares based on the information before it was made public.

General Motors has said it generally does not support restraints but prefers the voluntary agreement between the Japanese government and its car makers to other forms of protection.

Tokyo may take brake off car exports

Detroit - The voluntary agreements that have restrained Japanese car exports to the United States for the last eight years may be about to end, despite a large automotive trade surplus favouring Japan.

The decision, which would be made by the Ministry of International Trade and Industry, is not expected to be announced until February, but reports have appeared in the Japanese press in the last two months saying that the ministry is considering dropping the restraints, which expire on April 1.

The Japanese Automobile Manufacturers Association has pressed its call for an end to the restraints, pointing to a recovery in US car manufacturing since the early 1980s.

The restraints have outlived their usefulness, a US-based executive of a Japanese car manufacturer said. "Who's kidding whom? The restraints have caused consumers to pay higher prices."

An industry economist said: "The Japanese look like they're getting ready to abolish the restraints. Given what we see in the strength of the yen, it just doesn't look like the restraints are restraining."

The US government, which is not a party to the restraint agreement between Japan and its car manufacturers, maintains a neutral position on restraints, the Commerce Department said.

The Japanese government announced a 37.9 per cent increase in the dollar value of its monthly trade surplus with the United States on December 12. This was bolstered by a 16.6 per cent increase in the automotive trade surplus.

The trade figures, however, do not measure the number of Japanese cars imported, which has declined.

Economists say the dollar figure of the trade surplus is higher because of currency fluctuations, higher prices for Japanese cars and the growing volume of automotive merchandise that is not counted in car shipments.

An economist for one of the Big Three manufacturers, who declined to be identified, pointed out that Japanese cars assembled in the United States have an average Japanese content of about 50 per cent, including parts such as engines and transmissions, which are not counted under the voluntary restraints.

Hence, the 720,000 units from so-called transplants means an economic value of about 360,000 additional Japanese imports. Although that adds to the US trade deficit, it is not counted for purposes of the restraints.

The Japanese have also been shipping more expensive models to the United States. The trend appears to be increasing as Toyota and Nissan have joined Honda in adding luxury franchises to their regular lines of cars.

General Motors has said it generally does not support restraints but prefers the voluntary agreement between the Japanese government and its car makers to other forms of protection.

Analysts and economists had incorrectly predicted that the restraints would be dropped last year, while Japanese vehicle sales were declining and car exports were running below the permitted level. But now the Japanese industry is in its second year of falling car exports to the United States.

Because of higher Japanese car prices stemming from the fall of the dollar, Japan's nine car makers shipped only 2.14 million of the 2.3 million cars they were allowed to export to the US in the year to last April. The continued relative weakness of the dollar has depressed shipments further this year. From April to October, Japan shipped 1.27 million units, compared with about 1.45 million for the same period last year.

In the present, tense

The season of festive celebrations and goodwill it may be, but it seems that not everyone in the Square Mile had a fun-filled Christmas. A quick round-up of City and business personalities indicates that those employed in the securities industry had a decidedly more miserable holiday than their corporate clients - most of whom at least managed to escape to the sun in some far-flung corner of the globe. Using words which could equally be used to describe the stock market, Nigel Hughes, head of market-making at Hoare Govett, the broker, told me that he did not enjoy his Christmas. "It was too quiet," he complained. And, sounding equally depressed, John Craven, chairman of Morgan Grenfell, said that he had not received any Christmas presents yet, as he was still awaiting the return of his family from an African safari. Craven, who had been scheduled to join them on the trip, was forced to cancel when he made 450 employees redundant in mid-December. Asked what gift he would most like, he replied: "Some peace and quiet." Britain's captains of industry had a happier time, even if they were more forgetful. Most, including Philip Birch, chairman of Ward White, had to be reminded by their wives of the presents they received. Birch, speaking from Sydney, was given a pair of antique storm lamps, a Crystal Gayle tape and a Floyd on Food cookery book. "I do

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Blot on the landscape

The era of the ballpoint pen seems to be nearing its end. Trends in both America and Japan indicate that the baby boom brigade is forsaking the convenience of the ballpoint for the elegance of a fountain pen's script. And the craze is expected to catch on in Britain soon. Some 13 million fountain pens were sold in the US this year - 10 per cent more than the previous year. "Sales

are tremendous," says Brian Flax, vice-president of The Flax Company, a top Chicago art store. Status-conscious customers are prepared to pay up to £3,000 for a solid gold Waterman. "Young professionals are buying fountain pens to make a fashion statement - like they choose watches," said another retailer. "Even policemen are using fountain pens now."

electrical accessories firm Scholes Group, wanted anything but an electric shaver. A man who clearly has everything, he was given a gold-plated wet shaving set and stand. But perhaps the most amusing present of all was given to George Inge, chairman of top peoples estate agent Savills - an umbrella which, when opened, has the message "Ob s... it's raining" inscribed on the inside.

Vin du point

Baroness Philippine de Rothschild has unveiled the latest painting which will be used to decorate the labels of her family's Chateau Mouton Rothschild wine. The painting, of three masks and a moon on a dark background, is by Haitian artist Bernard Fejoorne and will decorate the 1986 vintage. Artists whose works have adorned the famous bottles include Picasso, Miro, Dalí and Warhol.

Carol's Christmas

As you count the cost of Christmas, just be thankful that you were not sufficiently romantic to encumber your loved one with the fabled festive gift of 184 birds, a small orchard of pear trees and a motley workforce of 140 lords, ladies, pipers, drummers and milkmaids. For the City Diary has worked out that the total cost this year would have been £15,870.34. For that, however, you would have received not any old pear tree, but pyrus salicifolia pendula, the weeping willow-leaved pear (£19.35 from Hilliers of Winchester). When it comes to partridges, Get Stuffed of Islington will stuff them for £69 each. We used the same tenderloin for the two turtle doves (£57.50 each) and four colly (or calling) birds - or, in this case, blackbirds - at £46 each. French hens come oven-ready at £4.15 each. Ratner's cheapest gold rings are £19.95. Folly Farms Waterfowl of Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire, provides domestic geese for breeding at £60 a pair, and black or Whooper swans at £130 a pair. Milkmaids attract the craft rate stipulated by the Transport and General Workers' Union - £119.83 a week - while for a private venue the drummers and pipers get Grade 1 London Musicians Union rates. Ladies dancing are hired through Equity, for £135 each. And the Lords have been allowed their daily attendance allowance. But, there again, the course of true love never did run smoothly.

Carol Leonard



"The market might be dull, Danbury, but..."

Price of place on IPE floor escalate

More firms...

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Table of Unit Trust Information Service listing various funds, their managers, and performance metrics.

Table of Unit Trust Information Service listing various funds, their managers, and performance metrics.

UNLISTED SECURITIES

Table of Unlisted Securities listing various companies and their share prices.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Table of Foreign Exchanges listing exchange rates for various currencies.

MONEY MARKETS

Table of Money Markets listing interest rates and market data.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Table of London Financial Futures listing futures contracts and prices.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Table of Investment Trusts listing various trusts and their performance.

THIRD MARKET

Table of Third Market listing various financial instruments and prices.

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

Table of London Metal Exchange listing metal prices and contracts.

Small text at the bottom right corner of the page.

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From your Portfolio gold card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily or accumulator dividend figures...

Table with 4 columns: No., Company, Group, and Price. Lists various companies like Shell, BP, and British Airways.

Please take into account any minus signs

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Table with 7 columns: MON, TUE, WED, THU, FRI, SAT, Weekly Total

BRITISH FUNDS

High Low Company Price Div Yield Gross Div %

Table listing various funds like SHORTS (Under Five Years) and FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS.

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

Table listing funds with over 15 years of history.

UNDATED

Table listing undated funds.

INDEX-LINKED

Table listing index-linked funds.

BANKS, DISCOUNT HP

Table listing banks and discount houses.

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES Confident start to account

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began yesterday. Dealings end January 13. Contango day January 16. Settlement day January 23.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (aa) denotes Alpha Stocks. (VOLUMES PAGE 22)

Table with 4 columns: High, Low, Company, Price. Lists companies like Shell, BP, and British Airways.

BREWERIES

Table listing brewery companies.

BUILDING, ROADS

Table listing building and road companies.

FINANCE, LAND

Table listing finance and land companies.

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

Table listing financial trusts.

FOODS

Table listing food companies.

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

Table listing chemicals and plastics companies.

DRAPERY, STORES

Table listing drapery and store companies.

HOTELS, CATERERS

Table listing hotels and caterers.

INDUSTRIALS A-D

Table listing industrial companies A-D.

ELECTRICALS

Table listing electrical companies.

Table with 4 columns: High, Low, Company, Price. Lists companies like Shell, BP, and British Airways.

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OVERSEAS TRADERS

Table listing overseas traders.

PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING

Table listing paper, print, and advertising companies.

PROPERTY

Table listing property companies.

MINING

Table listing mining companies.

MOTORS, AIRCRAFT

Table listing motors and aircraft companies.

SHIPPING

Table listing shipping companies.

SHOES, LEATHER

Table listing shoes and leather companies.

TEXTILES

Table listing textile companies.

NEWSPAPERS, PUBLISHERS

Table listing newspapers and publishers.

OILS, GAS

Table listing oil and gas companies.

TOBACCO

Table listing tobacco companies.

Ex-dividend & Ex all & Forward dividend & Interim payment passed & Price at suspension & Dividend & Yield exclude & special payment & Pre-merger figures & Forecast earnings & Ex other & Ex rights & Ex share or share split & Tax-free ... No significant data.

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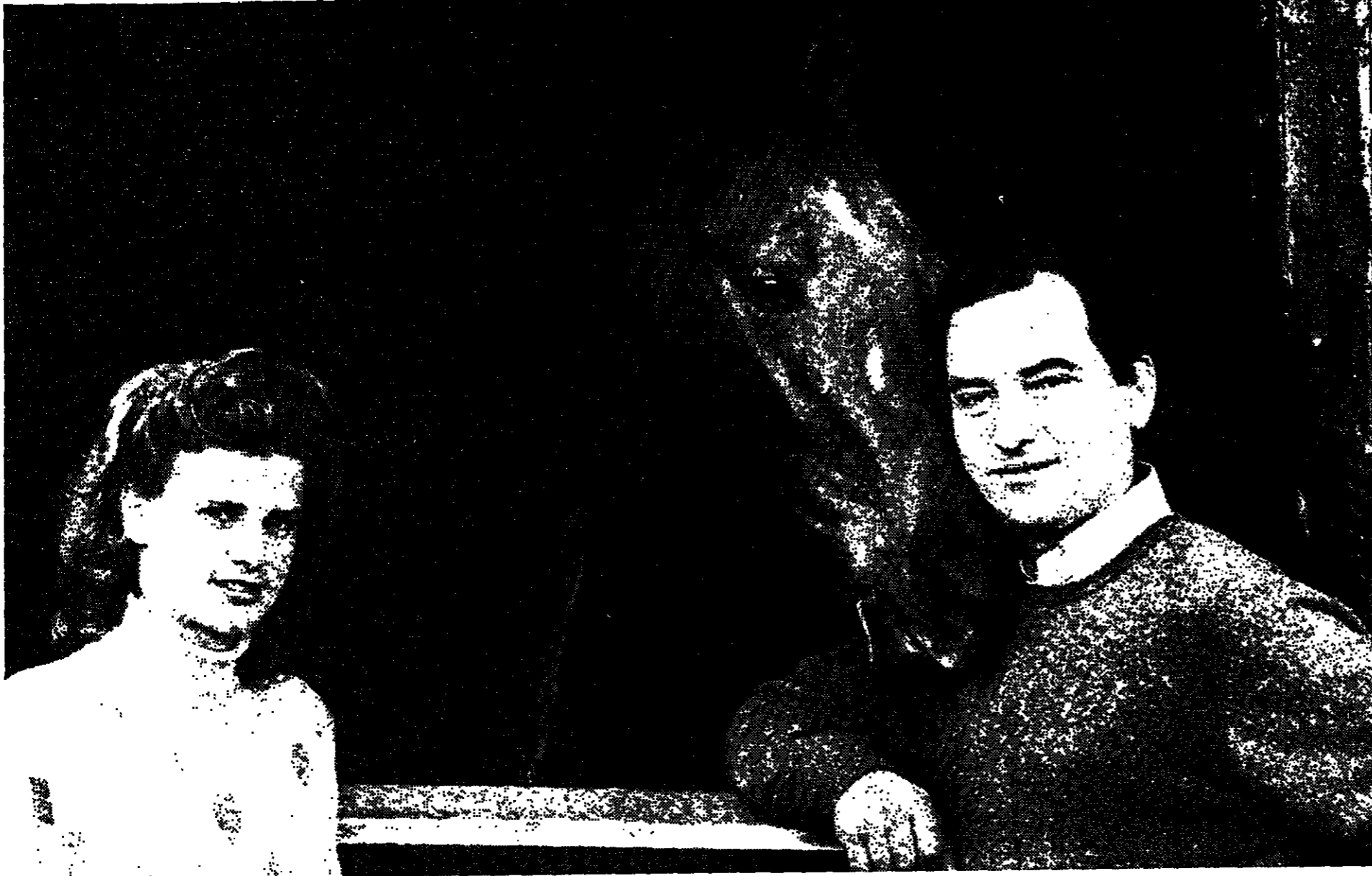
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Queen's News
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Sporting Exiles: Luca Cumani talks to Simon Barnes



Cumani, who trained his first Derby winner this year, and his wife, Sara, at their Newmarket yard: "His lads may call him 'giovanni' but at heart he is Il Principe"

From handicappers to the high-life

Luca Cumani is an Italian racehorse trainer. He trained the Derby winner this year. With characteristic Italian wit, he is known as 'The Wop'. An Italian in Newmarket? You might as well have an English gondolier, or an English pope. Though there has been an English pope, come to think of it: Hadrian IV.

By working his passage around the horse world: California, Australia, Hong Kong. He went to England, back to Italy, back to England again, and stayed. He got a job pupil-assisting with Henry Cecil. Learnt about obsession from the master, and resolved to set up on his own.

him. "Good publicity," he says sublimely, looking back. "I had handicappers, so I had to win handicaps. I always made a point of not cheating. My horses always won their big handicaps after winning before. They weren't coming in off a string of duck eggs and winning at 66-1. Most were favourites. There was nothing underhand. I was just making the system work to my advantage." Note the effortless use of racing slang.

Cumani has risen in the hit parade since the days when he lived and died by his handicappers. He finished second in the trainers' championship, and of course won his Derby (and the Irish one as well), which tells the world he is not so much a first division trainer as a member of the Super-League. It is quite something for an Exile - or an immigrant if you prefer - to come from outside and to reach the top, or very nearly the top. Cumani has yet to win the trainers' championship, and he would like to do that very much indeed.

dreary. That's what I like about being here. Here in England, or if you prefer, Abroad, Exiled. But there is always a certain amount of Italianate gloom surrounding Cumani, something that is rather impenetrable to a Brit. For all that Cumani manages to alchemize it into part of his drive for victories. "To win the Derby is a strange feeling, not at all what you would expect. You go to the races that day full of trepidation. You try - at least, I try - to pick holes in its form. Did he really beat anything at Lingfield? Has he ever sparkled enough on the gallops to win a Derby? I continually tried to find reasons why Kahyasi couldn't win.

SNOW REPORTS table with columns: Location, Depth (cm), Pistes, Conditions, Runs to resort, Weather (Spm) °C. Includes entries for Andorra, Austria, France, Italy, Switzerland, and Scotland.

TABLE TENNIS A contrast of styles in Masters By Richard Eaton The presence of five of the world's leading foreign players in the Masters at Preston in February suggests that the event will play an important role in the continuing revival of table tennis seen over the past two years.

BASKETBALL Fogerty honoured with coveted English award Jason Fogerty has been named basketball player of the year for his performances during 1988 with both MIM Livingston and England. An aggressive centre or forward, who has often belied his 21 years to produce stirring displays for club and country, the 6ft 9in Fogerty will receive his award from the English Basketball Association at the end of the world invitation club championship at Crystal Palace next Monday.

FISHING Auction to aid salmon By Conrad Voss Bark A salmon boat on the Queen's water of the Aberdeenshire Dees at Balmoral is on offer for two rods for March 20 to 25 in the annual postal auction organized by the Atlantic Salmon Trust in aid of salmon conservation.

CYCLING McDaid is appointed to key post By Peter Bryan Gerry McDaid, the chairman of the British Cycling Federation's professional racing committee, has been appointed to two key international roles next season.

YACHTING Old sea dog on the scent of victory From Bob Ross, Sydney Can Syd Fischer, one of 'yesterday's heroes' in Australian ocean racing, sailing a nine-year-old yacht called Ragamuffin, which he still owns because he has been unable to sell, win the AWA Sydney-Hobart race? The sentimental answer would be yes.

Duys ends Indian run From a Special Correspondent, Bombay A run of consecutive Indian victories was halted by Martin Duys, of The Netherlands, in the international Cadet class world championship yesterday.

TODAY'S FIXTURES table with columns: Sport, Time, Location, and Match details. Includes Football, Motor Sport, Other Sport, and Sport on TV.

Other sports news including mentions of the World Cup, the Masters, and various international events.

Additional sports news and commentary on various events and athletes.

Continuation of the yachting article and other sports news, including mentions of the AWA Sydney-Hobart race and international events.

ICE HOCKEY

Fetisov's desire still flickers despite delays

Uniondale, New York - Vyacheslav Fetisov, a member of the Soviet Union national side, still hopes to become the first player from his country to join a National League (NHL) team despite numerous hitches in negotiations.

On Tuesday night he sat in a hotel lobby near the Nassau Coliseum, where the Central Red Army team will continue a tour of NHL teams with a game against the Islanders today. He was flanked by an interpreter he barely needed, and he clutched a New Jersey Devils media guidebook as he told the complex story of the political negotiations that have thus far prevented him from starting his career afresh in the NHL.



Fetisov: awaiting clearance

Tigers slip nearer to relegation zone

Two matches were played in the premier division of the Heineken League on Tuesday and the results were of some significance at both ends of the table. Murrayfield Racers took their winning run to 13, beating Tayside Tigers 19-9 and achieving their tenth double-figure score in 11 games.

McDaid is appointed to key post

Gerry McDaid, the chairman of the British Cycling Federation's professional racing committee, has been appointed to two key international roles next season. McDaid will be medical control inspector throughout the Tour de France in July, and Chief Commissaire - or senior referee - for the 19-day Paris to Moscow race, a one-off event in May to mark the bicentenary of the French Revolution.

Duys ends Indian run

A run of consecutive Indian victories was halted by Martin Duys, of The Netherlands, in the international Cadet class world championship yesterday. Duys, now fourth, will move up to strengthen the Indian grip on the title.

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, possibly a page number or reference: 'Louise', 'Lambo', 'Barni'.

